



Center for Faith-Based & Community Initiatives

Dear Newsletter Recipients,

To help us serve you better the USAID Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives is currently undergoing many changes.

We are in the process of restructuring our web site and adding additional information you or your group may find helpful as you work toward obtaining federal grants.

Sometimes the government can appear impersonal and too big and many believe groups get lost in the bureaucracy. Our office has been extremely encouraged by the amount of good work being done by faith and community based groups around the world and we want to highlight that success. Please send us stories from the field where your organization has witnessed measurable life changing success. We are particularly interested in stories that show partnerships between government and faith and community based organizations. We want to post some of these stories on our web site in order for others to be encouraged by your stories as well.

We are working to not only build collaboration between faith and community based groups and government but also to help foster partnerships between groups themselves to more effectively and efficiently attend to those suffering around the globe.

Our e-Newsletter will also be changing. USAID is a large agency and navigating through its many bureaus to find your group's niche can be difficult. Starting with this letter we will periodically highlight different aspects of the agency that you may not be familiar with but could prove beneficial to your organization.

Thank you for all you do to make a difference!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 15-16, the White House and the Departments of Justice, Commerce, Agriculture, Labor, Veterans Affairs, Health & Human Services, Housing & Urban Development, Education, and Homeland Security, the Agency for International Development, and the Small Business Administration will host a conference in Phoenix to help social service organizations learn more about President Bush's Faith-Based and Community Initiative. These conferences are geared towards faith-based and community organizations that have no history of applying for government grants, as well as those that have applied, but have not yet been successful.

The conference is free, but pre-registration is required. Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Visit www.fbcigov to register online. We strongly encourage you to register online. If you are unable to register online, print the registration form attached to this email. Complete the form and fax it to 703-299-4589. If you are not able to view this file, please call 202-456-6708 to have a form faxed to you.

The deadline for registration is Tuesday, May 1st. If you must cancel your registration, please send an email to fbcigov@dtihq.com or a fax to the number listed above so we may accommodate as many people as possible.

The conference is part of a series of regional events that are being held around the country. The

conferences provide participants with a general overview of the Faith-Based and Community Initiative, information about the government grants process and available funding opportunities, and an overview of the legal responsibilities that come with the receipt of Federal funds.

For more information, please call 202-456-6708, send an email to fbcf@dtihq.com, or visit www.fbcf.gov.

We very much hope you will be able to join us in Phoenix!

ABOUT VOLUNTEER'S FOR PROSPERITY:

Presidential Initiative Promotes International Service by American Professionals

Volunteers for Prosperity (VfP), established by Executive Order on September 25, 2003, works with leading U.S. non-profits and companies to deploy highly skilled American professionals in volunteer opportunities that advance major U.S. efforts to promote health and prosperity around the world.

The Office of Volunteers for Prosperity (VfP Office) at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is building a network of partner organizations that implement service activities overseas supporting our Nation's global health and prosperity agenda.

A Presidential initiative of USA Freedom Corps, VfP currently has over 200 partners and they reported mobilizing more than 20,000 Americans – doctors, nurses, engineers, teachers, business executives and others -- as international volunteers in 2006.

VfP partner benefits include:

- VfP serves as a clearinghouse for international volunteer opportunities through its network of partner organizations;
- The VfP website is a resource that:
 - Matches prospective volunteers with appropriate partners, and gives links to partners' sites;
 - Shares volunteer success stories;
 - Provides an on-line information exchange forum to provide partners opportunities to share insights on managing volunteer programs;
 - Provides access to a search engine that links to a database of specific international voluntary opportunities;
- VfP promotes recognition of service by VfP partners' volunteers through the President's Volunteer Service Award. As a PVSA leadership organization, the USAID VfP Office has established a PVSA website to make it easier for partners to recognize the work of their volunteers; and
- VfP partners that rely on skilled American volunteers can receive special consideration in the federal grants process related to the [Presidential initiatives](#) that VfP supports.

For more information, visit the VfP website at www.volunteersforprosperity.gov or contact the VfP Director Jack Hawkins at jahawkins@usaid.gov.